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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Hungary; German Democratic Republic

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

SUBJECT Transportation - Water

DATE DIST. 8 Mar 1952

HOW PUBLISHED Weekly periodical; daily newspaper

WHERE PUBLISHED Budapest; Leipzig

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 4 Nov 1951, 9 Jan 1952

LANGUAGE Hungarian; German

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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HUNGARIAN DANUBE AT LOW LEVEL;
GDR LAUNCHES DEEP-SEA DREDGER

DANUBE'S LOW LEVEL SLOWS SHIPPING -- Budapest, Kozlekedesi Kozlony, 4 Nov 51

Because of the unusually low water level of the Danube, navigation difficulties have increased during the past 2 weeks. This situation is further aggravated by the requirements of the autumn peak traffic. In 2 weeks, the water level decreased by 30 centimeters. The present level of the Danube at Budapest is 105 centimeters. (The ideal water level for river navigation at Budapest is 300-400 centimeters.)

Because of the low water level, motor freighters with deep draft have had to be withdrawn. On certain sections of the Danube, the water level is so low that all spare parts of steam tugboats have had to be removed to gain a few centimeters in draft. The problems of river navigation are further increased by the fact that the level of the Drava and Sava rivers, which until now have supplied the Danube with a considerable amount of water, has been reduced by the severe drought. As a result, the passage of rapids is increasingly difficult.

Transportation through the Iron Gate is only possible with the help of shallow-draft tugboats of the Hungarian-Soviet Navigation Corporation (MESZHART), and even this limited traffic progresses slowly because of the strong current. The shallow level causes great difficulties, especially on the lower Danube, where the number of barges was increased by 50 percent to compensate for the necessary reduction of freight loads on the barges to 40 percent of their capacity.

The situation is also serious in domestic navigation because available vessels cannot be utilized and because the low water level has increased loading difficulties. Delays are also prevalent in Budapest-Mohacs passenger traffic.

- 1 -

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LAUNCH DEEP-SEA DREDGER -- Leipzig, Leipziger Volkszeitung, 9 Jan 52

On 5 January 1952, the hull of the first large dredger for deep-sea operations of the German Democratic Republic was launched at the Rosslau people-owned shipyard. It was christened Warnemünde. The dredger is the 75th new construction of the Rosslau shipyard. It is destined to deepen the navigation lanes in the Baltic Sea in order to provide access to Baltic Sea ports for large merchant vessels.

The dredger is 50 meters long and 9.50 meters wide. Its capacity is 400 cubic meters per hour. The dredger was the biggest assignment the Rosslau shipyard has undertaken since 1945.

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- 2 -

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